

Keeping in Touch



News and notes from
the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029, (213) 464-5100.

MAY, 1991

New Church Buildings

When a church moves to a new location, it is a sign of life and hope. Congratulations to the following churches that recently purchased new property:

- * MCC Shepherd of The Plains in Great Falls, MT, who will dedicate its new building on June 23.
- * St. John The Apostle MCC in Fort Myers, FL, bought 2-1/2 acres of land and is looking forward to building a new church there.
- * MCC Tucson moved into a new church building on Good Friday. Purchase of the building was made possible by a bequest from someone outside the congregation who was grateful for MCC Tucson's loving response to her request for pastoral care.
- * MCC Corpus Christi, TX, purchased a building, originally built as a Jewish Temple. It includes a 220-seat sanctuary, office space, fellowship hall, and a full gymnasium.

PRAISES

FIRST MCC OF WICHITA is receiving its 200th member in May. The congregation recently purchased a former synagogue for their church building. Rev. T. Edward Helms, pastor of the church, will preach at General Conference's morning worship on Wed., July 17.

Less than a year after it was founded, GREAT PLAINS MCC, Lawton, OK, has already outgrown its second home. The church was founded last summer and met for a few weeks in a motel before moving to a space that seated 25 people. Pastoral leader Carla Howerton was planning a publicity drive, but had to put it on hold because there were already more worshippers than seats. The church will relocate to larger space on the first Sunday in May.

ICM CRISTO REY is being welcomed as an official member of the Northeast District. This is one of only two Spanish-speaking UFMCC church in the United States. About 50 people from at least 15 different countries attend the church. (The other Spanish-speaking UFMCC church in the States is ICM El Paso y Juarez, founded Nov 1, 1990 in El Paso, TX).

The partnership between SAMARITAN COLLEGE and the MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT is flourishing. The district is offering a wide variety of Samaritan courses, plus it is developing new courses not already in the Samaritan curriculum. These include Rev. Larry Uhrig's new course on homiletics called "Preaching: The Gift of Prophecy."

General Conference XV Promises to Inspire!

Some early registration discounts are still available for General Conference XV. June 15 is the deadline for early weekend registration and early outside and inside the U.S. registration. Hotel reservations are due by June 13 in order to guarantee the low conference room rate.

Record numbers of people continue to register for the conference, which offers a wide range of worship experiences, more workshops and entertainment than ever before, and the first Conference program for children. The facilities will be the best ever, because the Conference will be held at The Pointe at Tapatio Cliffs in Phoenix, Arizona, one of the top 10 resort/convention centers in the world. The Conference runs from July 14 thru 21. Our theme comes from Revelation 3:8: "I have opened a door."

Weekend registration includes all events for the final three days of the Conference, Friday, July 19, to Sunday, July 21. Weekend highlights include the Variety Show Friday night showcasing talent from every UFMCC district. A variety of forums and workshops will be offered during the day on Saturday, including:

- *"Exploring the Ex-Gay Movement, Exposing the Ex-Gay Myth" with Mike Busse, co-founder of Exodus International
- *"Five Steps to Spiritual Freedom: Life-Affirming Lessons in Lesbian and Gay Spirituality" with Rev. Malcolm Boyd, gay Episcopal priest and author of "Are You Running with Me Jesus?"
- *"Making Sex Safe, Making Safety Sexy" with Alison Arnglim, AIDS activist and TV star from "Little House on the Prairie."

Saturday night will culminate in the Human Rights Award Banquet with guest speaker Urvashi Vaid, executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force (USA). She will speak on "Civil Rights of Lesbians and Gays: Progress and Prospects." Weekend events conclude Sunday morning with a closing worship service featuring Rev. Troy Perry preaching.

More than 35 workshops will be offered throughout the Conference, addressing such areas as evangelism and church growth, AIDS ministry, people of color, and women. The UFMCC Women's Secretariat, which grew out of the previous General Conference, will present a business session forum featuring Winona LaDuke, native American

(Continued next page)

feminist and political activist. Music and entertainment will also be provided daily during the lunch hour and after evening worship in the 13,000 square-foot Pavillion.

Many volunteers are needed to make all this a reality, including ushers, security personnel, pastoral care team members, talent show performers, and workers for the UFMCC booth at the Country Store.

Approximately 1,500 people are expected to attend General Conference XV. By mid-April, about 700 had already registered, including the highest number of non-delegates ever attending a General Conference.

Weekend early registration (postmarked by June 15) is only \$75, whereas onsite weekend registration is \$100. Early outside U.S. registration (postmarked by June 15) is only \$105, a savings of \$20 over the onsite registration fee of \$125. U.S. registrants for the entire Conference can also still save money by mailing in their registration before June 15. U.S. registration between now and June 15 is \$208, compared to \$228 onsite. Register now for the best General Conference ever.

New Pastors Installed

Many UFMCC churches have recently installed new pastors. Congratulations to the following churches and their newly installed pastors:

Rev. Joseph T. Whitley, MCC Augusta, GA
Rev. Frank Beard, MCC Greenville, SC
Rev. Ron Jesser, Christ Chapel MCC, Santa Ana, CA
Rev. Michael Niece, New Spirit MCC, Cincinnati, OH
Ms. Margaret Hawk, MCC Columbus, OH

Church Anniversaries

MCC WASHINGTON, D.C., is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a series of special events April 26 to May 5. The entire lesbian and gay religious community is invited to join in "A Candlelight Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance" on May 2, with special guests Sharon Pratt Dixon, Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, and Rev. Elder Troy Perry. The celebration concludes with worship services featuring Rev. Perry and Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey.

The first MCC worship service in Chicago, held 21 years ago, is being commemorated by GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH MCC with its first "Homecoming Sunday" on May 5. There will be a reception followed by an evening worship service featuring David Owen, resident church historian.

MCC MODESTO, CA is celebrating its 10th Anniversary on June 8 with a celebration featuring singer, Marsha Stevens.

PRAYERS

REV. LAPAULA TURNER'S youngest son, Gregg Elliott Simpson, was killed on April 20 in Sacramento, CA. His death was drug-related. Rev. Turner, director of the Department of People of Color, attended the funeral with her partner Rev. Sandra Robinson, dean of Samaritan College. Rev. Turner describes Gregg as "the most accepting and verbal about his love for his mother." He even proclaimed it on national TV when he appeared with his mother on "The Sally Jesse Raphael Show" in 1987. Cards and letters may be sent to Revs. Turner and Robinson at 2933 Moss Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90065.

MCC TRI-CITIES in Johnson City, TN, is meeting in members' homes after the Unitarian Church where it meets was severely vandalized in mid-April. Repairs will not be completed until June. Gulf Lower Atlantic District Coordinator Jay Neely reports that there is no indication that this attack was directed against MCC. Cards and donations may be sent to Rev. Tam Schult, Pastor, MCC Tri-Cities, P.O. Box 1612, Johnson City, TN 37605.

REV. LARRY UHRIG, pastor of MCC Washington D.C., is recuperating at home from hepatitis. Cards may be sent to him in care of MCC-DC, 415 "M" St., NW, Washington, DC 20001.

MRS. GENE BOGLE, mother of Jackie Bogle, died in mid-April. Jackie is the spouse of Rev. Arlene Ackerman, pastor of All God's Children MCC in Minneapolis. They may be contacted at the church, 3100 Park Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55407. Rev. Ackerman's last Sunday in the Minneapolis pulpit is May 5.

REV. SYLVIA PENNINGTON, author of "Ex-Gays: There Are None," died in mid-April. Rev. Pennington had been scheduled to speak at General Conference. At her immediate family's request, a memorial service has been scheduled at the General Conference chapel at noon Saturday, July 20.

REV. BILL SMITH of the Great Lakes District, former pastor of MCC in Springfield, IL, has just spent a month in the hospital. He has been diagnosed HIV+, and asks to be remembered in prayer.

ELDER LARRY RODRIGUEZ is recuperating after being attacked by two men while vacationing with his lover, Casey Van Vliet, in Amsterdam in early April. The men made some homophobic remarks, then struck Elder Rodriguez on the head with a metal pipe, causing a concussion. He was rushed to a local hospital, where he was treated and released. He is feeling much better and is back at work.

UFMCC Participates in the International Lesbian/Gay Conference

The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) will hold its 13th Annual Conference from June 30 to July 6, 1991 in Guadalajara, Mexico. The UFMCC delegation will be lead by Rev. Elder Don Eastman and will include

In an effort to expose the Fellowship's leaders to the joys of living and working in the Midwest, the Great Lakes District will offer an ice tea social along with a slide presentation highlighting the best things that the upper mid-west has to offer. A cash bar will also be available. Brochures and information on all of the churches in the Great Lakes District will be there for the taking, along with information on the many exciting ministries happening in GLD. For additional information: Sean-Patrick Hogan 312/271-2298.

CHI RHO PRESS

A Special Work of the
Mid-Atlantic District

Is Proud to Announce
the Publication of

"The UFMCC Mission Statement"

by the Rev'd. Virginia G. Miles
and R. Adam DeBaugh

This five-part booklet adapts sermons by Ginny and Adam on the Mission Statement adopted by the UFMCC General Council in March 1989: "The UFMCC empowers people to bring Christian Salvation, Christian Community, and Christian Social Action to the world."

**\$2.50 for up to five copies
\$1.75 each for six or more copies**

To order, send your check or money order, made out to **Chi Rho Press**, to P.O. Box 7864, Gaithersburg, MD 20898, USA. Prepaid orders will not be charged for postage. You may choose to be invoiced, but postage will then be added to your bill.

I enclose \$ _____ for _____ copies of "The UFMCC Mission Statement"

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

March, 1991

Top 20 Tithes

S.....	Dallas, TX	\$4683.34
ly Spirit MCC....	Ft Lauderdale, FL	2924.50
e Resurrection.....	Houston, TX	2752.59
ngton.....	Washington, DC	2266.51
Beach.....	Long Beach, CA	1975.77
rancisco.....	San Francisco, CA	1937.90
e Valley.....	N Hollywood, CA	1708.99
pace MCC.....	St Petersburg, FL	1512.58
of Kansas.....	Wichita, KS	1471.94
e Rockies.....	Denver, CO	1457.96
.....	Fort Worth, TX	1201.99
.....	Austin, TX	1071.36
.....	Tampa, FL	1051.06
ork.....	New York, NY	1026.84
MCC.....	Toronto, Ontario, CAN	1012.51
s MCC.....	Jacksonville, FL	989.40
.....	Orlando, FL	977.03
the Trinity MCC.....	Sarasota, FL	933.49
est.....	Key West, FL	926.05
s MCC.....	Atlanta, GA	818.33

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Top 20 Per Capita

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a - ECM.....	Ontario, CAN	46.84
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DC.....	Redwood City, CA	25.78
MCC.....	Rochester, NY	25.75
MCC.....	San Lorenzo, CA	22.75
lle.....	Rockville, MD	22.48
lyn.....	Brooklyn, NY	21.94
the Trinity MCC.....	Sarasota, FL	21.70
DC of the Hi Desert...	Palmdale, CA	21.50
on.....	Alberta, CAN	21.47
e Disciples.....	Washington, DC	20.40
e Gentle Shepherd....	Vancouver, WA	20.14
rnal MCC.....	Springfield, IL	20.10
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New Pastors In

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PRAYERS

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The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) will hold its 13th Annual Conference from June 30 to July 6, 1991 in Guadalajara, Mexico. The UFMCC delegation will be lead by Rev. Elder Don Eastman and will include Ravi Verma, Director of Administration, and Elder Larry Rodriguez. The Mexico venue will mark the first time that ILGA has chosen to hold its yearly meeting in a developing country, and is indicative of the growth and vibrance of Guadalajara's Gay and Lesbian community.

Tom Garcia, UFMCC's coordinator of Latin America Ministry in Mexico and Central America, has continued to minister boldly in the face of some government opposition to the ILGA Conference. A state government newspaper interviewed him recently about the work that UFMCC is doing with AIDS patients there and about his attitudes toward the ILGA Conference. A few hours later he was asked to participate in an interview with ILGA organizers on one of Mexico's most popular radio stations.

"This is the first time we have come out into public light and we are recognized as one of the non-governmental groups in the fight against AIDS," he reported.

ILGA organizers congratulated Mr. Garcia on his courage, and on UFMCC publications, especially "Homosexuality: Not a Sin, Not a Sickness." They invited him to help plan the conference.

ILGA is a worldwide federation of national and local groups dedicated to achieving lesbian and gay rights around the globe. Founded in 1978, it now has more than 200 group memberships, with every continent and more than 40 countries represented.

The fee for the Guadalajara conference is US \$350, and includes accommodations and meals. The ILGA conference offers Gay and Lesbian activists a unique opportunity to network and exchange information with colleagues from around the world. For more information on attending the conference or about ILGA membership, contact Robert Bray of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force at (202) 332-6483.

Great Lakes District

The Great Lakes District proudly announces that it will hold a reception for all clergy, student clergy and qualified lay pastoral leaders, and their spouses, on Tuesday evening, July 16th, 9-11 pm, in Court Room O & P at the General Conference site in Phoenix, AZ.

In an effort to expose the Fellowship's leaders to the joys of living and working in the Midwest, the Great Lakes District will offer an ice tea social along with a slide presentation highlighting the best things that the upper mid-west has to offer. A cash bar will also be available. Brochures and information on all of the churches in the Great Lakes District will be there for the taking, along with information on the many exciting ministries happening in GLD. For additional information: Sean-Patrick Hogan 312/271-2298.

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6.	MCC San Francisco.....San Francisco, CA	1937.90
7.	MCC in the Valley.....N Hollywood, CA	1708.99
8.	King of Peace MCC.....St Petersburg, FL	1512.58
9.	First MCC of Kansas.....Wichita, KS	1471.94
10.	MCC of the Rockies.....Denver, CO	1457.96
11.	Agape MCC.....Fort Worth, TX	1201.99
12.	MCC Austin.....Austin, TX	1071.36
13.	MCC Tampa.....Tampa, FL	1051.06
14.	MCC New York.....New York, NY	1026.84
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9.	MCC Brooklyn.....Brooklyn, NY	21.94
10.	Church of the Trinity MCC.....Sarasota, FL	21.70
11.	Sunrise MCC of the HI Desert...Palmdale, CA	21.50
12.	MCC Edmonton.....Alberta, CAN	21.47
13.	MCC of the Disciples.....Washington, DC	20.40
14.	MCC of the Gentle Shepherd....Vancouver, WA	20.14
15.	Faith Eternal MCC.....Springfield, IL	20.10
16.	Christ the Redeemer MCC.....Evanston, IL	19.64
17.	Resurrection Chapel MCC.....Torrance, CA	19.57
18.	MCC of the Desert.....Cathedral City, CA	19.17
19.	All Saints MCC.....Atlanta, GA	18.99
20.	Eternal Light MCC.....Olympia, WA	18.24

ADVERTISE IN
THE CONFERENCE BOOKLET

The following is the Application for advertising space in the 1991 Program Booklet for General Conference XV of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, July 14-21, 1991 in Phoenix, Arizona.

The booklet will include the total program for the conference, plus welcome letters, biographies of Elders, speakers and staff, and printed music for services. Previous Conference Booklets have become a keepsake which is looked at throughout the year with fond memories.

Become a part of those memories and advertise, or just put in a congratulatory note. All participants will also be mentioned on the Supporting Contributors Page and will receive a copy of the 1991 Program Book.

Rates for advertising are as follows:

(1) Back Cover	\$150.00	(5½ x 8½)
(2) Inside Back & Inside Front Cover	125.00	(5½ x 8½)
(3) Full Page	100.00	(5½ x 8½)
(4) Half (1/2) Page	65.00	(5½ x 4½)
(5) Quarter (1/4) Page	35.00	(2 3/4 x 4½)
		(or Calling Card)

Your check for the full amount along with a TYPESET/PHOTO READY ad and the filled out form below must be received by JUNE 1, 1991 to be included.

MAIL TO: Conference Coordinator
UFMCC, Suite 304
5300 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90029

1991 PROGRAM BOOKLET

Name of Applicant/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____ Zip _____

Country _____ Phone () _____

Size Ad _____ Cost \$ _____ (Check must be included)

TYPESET/PHOTO READY ad included (if ad is not typeset or photo ready, it will be returned to you). We CANNOT return original ads after publishing.

MCC Hospital in Nigeria Progresses

Inspection of the site for MCC Hospital in Nigeria has been successfully completed by officials of the Ministry of Health.

Rev. S.O. Maduka, church extension coordinator in Nigeria, reports that Nigerian MCC members are looking forward to receiving a letter of approval for the site from the commissioner by the end of April.

UFMCC Women's Conference in Australia

The Australian District Task Force on Women is sponsoring its first Christian Women's Conference in Sydney, Australia, May 10-12. Conference organizers are reaching out to invite women who are not members of MCC to join in this conference.

Among those involved in the conference are members of Epiphany Women's Community, a UFMCC special outreach to women in Melbourne, Australia. Numbers are steadily growing at worship services at Epiphany, which is pastored by Rev. Heike Weber.

MCC women from Sydney wrote to thank UFMCC for sending a delegation to The World Council of Churches Assembly in Australia. "Your visit to Australia seems to have been that 'outside' energy needed to catalyze networking at many levels," they said.

Churches Choose More Colorful Names

Discussions about church mission and identity have led churches in the South Central District to give themselves new names that are more descriptive and meaningful. In the past year, five churches have adopted new names that more clearly declare their identity. These newly christened churches are:

- *Trinity MCC, Arlington, TX (formerly Mid-Cities MCC)
- *Family of Faith MCC (formerly MCC Broken Arrow, OK)
- *Joie de Vivre MCC (formerly MCC Baton Rouge, LA)
- *Great Plains MCC (formerly MCC of Lawton, OK)
- *Victory Fellowship MCC, Shreveport, LA
(formerly Friendship MCC)

"A lot of this stems from district conference where we focused on the diversity of the district and multi-cultural ministry," says SCD Coordinator Clarke Friesen. The district's newest church is starting out with a name befitting the new trend. Healing Water MCC started worshipping April 7 in Hot Springs, AR.

New Ministry Resources Offered

New ministry resources will be offered soon by Chi Rho Press, a special work of the Mid-Atlantic District.

"Living With Loss: The Impact of AIDS on Bereavement" by Rev. Lou Kavar will be available in May. This is an excellent primer on grief counseling by UFMCC's field director for World Church Extension. Rev. Kavar's doctoral thesis, a training video and manual for counseling people bereaved by AIDS, will be available in late summer.

Chi Rho Press is also preparing a new edition of "The Bible and Homosexuality" by Rev. Michael England.

Holocaust Memorials Planned

Some MCC churches are commemorating Yom HaShoah, the Day of Remembering the Holocaust, in their church life this April.

MCC in the Valley, North Hollywood, CA, provided a full week of lectures, workshops and worship to remember all victims and survivors of the Nazi Holocaust, with a special emphasis on gay victims and how the attitudes behind the Holocaust continue today. Lectures included, "The Lesbian and Gay Experience During the Holocaust," "An Earlier Holocaust: The Burning of Witches in the Middle Ages," "The Roots of Christian Anti-Semitism" and "Discussion with a Jewish Concentration Camp Survivor."

MCC San Francisco and MCC Los Angeles also held Holocaust commemoration services.

Freda Smith Honored

Courage has always characterized Rev. Elder Freda Smith. Her courage has now been officially recognized by the Sacramento History Museum. The museum presented Rev. Smith with the Women in History Award for Courage.

Rev. Smith was commended for service as senior pastor of River City MCC for the last 18 years, as well as for her human rights activism. She has been instrumental in sexual law reform and in the development of gay studies and women's studies at California State University Sacramento.

As part of Women's History Month, the museum made awards in eight categories to "women whose deeds are making history today, even as they are influencing the directions of our tomorrows."

UFMCC Has A Role In 'Real Life'

Rev. Steve Pieters, Field Director of UFMCC AIDS Ministry, has been videotaped by NBC television for "Real Life", a Sunday night series hosted by Jane Pauley. On March 26, the TV crew taped a session of Rev. Pieter's "Ten-Step" spiritual support group at MCC Los Angeles. On April 5-7 they taped a workshop and the Sunday worship service at MCC in Pueblo, Colorado. Both of these events were outstanding and Rev. Pieters reports the producers were stunned and pleased at the response of people participating; they hadn't expected as much hope and optimism among people with AIDS, and had not previously encountered openly gay and lesbian Christians. Rev. Pieters was interviewed by Jane Pauley on April 22, and the show will tentatively be aired on June 2 or June 9.

In Memory: Nancy Alarie-Dupell

After a long struggle with cancer, Nancy Alarie-Dupell of Worcester, MA died suddenly of cardiac arrest and pneumonia on March 13, 1991. Her funeral was held on March 16. She was student clergy and had been the interim pastoral leader of Morning Star MCC since the death last year of the Rev. Emmett Watkins. At the March CCCC Meeting in Los Angeles a post humorous Licensure was given to Nancy Alarie-Dupell. In those six months of interim leadership, Rev. Alarie-Dupell had helped the congregation grieve the loss of Rev. Watkins and start moving toward the future with a spiritual renewal and the purchase of their own church building. Rev. Alarie-Dupell is survived by her spouse Clara, two children, mother, and siblings. Thank God for her inspiring example of service and leadership even as she struggled with illness.

From the Board of Pensions

All churches in arrears on Board of Pensions assessments were notified by mail during the period of March 6 through March 30, 1991. Each District Coordinator was also notified. Any church in arrears shall be denied its lay delegate(s) vote at District and/or General Conference unless a WRITTEN mutual agreement is in effect for the amount in arrears. The payment in 1991 remains at 75¢ per member per month. Forms were sent to all churches in March 1991. Payments must be current through the 1st quarter 1991. If you need forms, contact Lois Luneburg, P.O. Box 107 Arnold, CA 95223; Phone (209) 795-7132.

For Clergy participating in the Pension Plan, the MANDATORY ANNUAL CLERGY contribution for 1991 is \$108, for 1992 and thereafter, the annual contribution will be \$120. Clergy currently participating will receive a Summary Plan Description and an Actuarial report prior to General Conference.

Pastoral Search

MCC in Burlington, VT, a new mission/outreach, is seeking a pastoral leader. For more information, contact: Rev. Jeffrey Pulling, Northeast District Coordinator, 2006 Mill Pond Drive, South Windsor, CT 06074.

MCC OF VENTURA, CA, is currently seeking a full-time pastor. This church is made up of several neighboring cities: Ojai, Oxnard, Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, and Santa Paula. If you would like further information and an application for this pulpit please write to: MCC Ventura Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 25610, Ventura CA 93002.

EMMANUEL MCC OF ALBUQUERQUE, NM, is seeking a part-time pastor. This new work began in December, 1990 and has become a very strong and supportive group. If you are interested in receiving more information about Emmanuel MCC, please respond in writing to: Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 80192, Albuquerque, NM 87108; (505) 294-5197. Representatives of the Committee will be attending General Conference in Phoenix and will plan to meet with prospective candidates there if possible.

MORNING STAR MCC, Worcester, MA, is seeking a full-time pastor. This church has had many struggles this past year with the loss of their pastor, Rev. Emmett Watkins in August 1990 and then the loss of their interim pastoral leader, Nancy Alarie-Dupell in March 1991, and God has brought them through these trials victoriously. If you would like information about Morning Star MCC please write to: Pastoral Search Committee, P.O. Box 787, Worcester, MA 01601.

Great Lakes District Coordinator in "Who's Who"

Judy Dale, district coordinator for the Great Lakes District, is listed in the 1991 edition of "Who's Who of American Women."

In addition to listing her UFMCC position, it says she is past international president of the 55,000-member Council for Exceptional Children, the professional association for people who work with handicapped and gifted children, and vice president of GLUE (Gays and Lesbians United for Equality), Louisville's umbrella organization for gay and lesbian groups.

Correction

First MCC of Kansas in Wichita, ranked 10th in the "Top Twenty Tithes" list for January, 1991. We incorrectly reported another church's name.

We apologize to Agape MCC of Ft. Worth, Texas, who should have been number 12 on the "Top Twenty Tithes" list for February, 1991.